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7. TÆNIDIESTES, Reich.

Gen. Char. Bill robust, varying in color with the sex, as also does the plumage; lower mandible deep, nail prominent, lamellæ not projecting. Feet robust, varying in color with the sex, tarsus shorter than middle toe with claw. Colors of female with metallic reflections on the speculum.

Species *Tænidiestes antarctica*, Gm. Southern extremity of S. America, and adjacent islands; Chili.

December 6th.

The President, DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Thirty-three members present.

PROF. COPE made some observations on a number of species of reptiles from the Cretaceous beds of Kansas, which he had recently studied. He stated that the specimens included parts of *Elasmosaurus platyrus* Cope, *Polycotylus latipinnis* Cope, *Liodon proriger* Cope, and two new Liodons, which he named *L. ictericus* and *L. mudgei* respectively. They both belonged to the division with depressed vertebral centra, and the *L. ictericus* was near *L. validus* Cope, of New Jersey, but exhibited a less anterior, and less prominent proximal external angle of the quadratum, which Prof. Cope stated indicated a less extensive lateral flexibility of the ramus of the mandible.

In *L. Mudgei* the angle was still more posterior, and the pterygoid teeth were not pleurodont, as in *Platecarpus tympaniticus*. Remains of the cranium indicated a reptile of 30 feet in length, while those of the *L. ictericus* belonged to two individuals of 40 and 50 feet in length. A third new Mosasauroid of the size of the *L. Mudgei* was described under the name of *Clidastes cinerorum*. It was stated to be much the largest species of the genus, and to differ from the three now known in having the plane of the articular extremities at right angles to the long axis of the centra, and not oblique to it. From near Sheridan, Kansas; described by Prof. B. F. Mudge. He described a third new Liodon, of gigantic size, stating it to exceed by very much the Mæstricht reptile, and even the *Mosasaurus brumbzi* Gibbes, which was till now the largest known species. He pointed out the characters of the vertebra, which were very much depressed as to the centrum, which measured $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. It was allied to the *M. brumbzi*, but differed in having a strong emargination of the articular faces to accommodate the neural canal. He named it *Liodon dyspelor*.

PROF. COPE also exhibited the humeri and femora of *Polycotylus*, which were like those of *Plesiosaurus*, and measured 18 inches in length.

MR. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited several specimens of the *Maclura aurantiaca*, the common osage orange, in which the plants were inarched together in pairs in a remarkable way. He said the osage orange was extensively grown as a hedge plant, and in digging up the one year plants, these united twins were usually found in the proportion of about one score in ten thousand. Double kernels were common occurrences in many seeds. There were double peaches, almonds, and double yolks in eggs. But these all had their separate seed coverings or membranes, and the yolks their own albuminous envelopes, consequently the separate embryos produced distinct plants. But these indicated that there had been two separate embryos under one seminal covering, and that the radicular portions of this double embryo, having no membrane to separate them, had inarched themselves together while passing to the ground. If this was the true explanation, he thought there was no such case recorded. That it was true seemed probable, from the fact that all the specimens were united in exactly the same manner, showing that time, place, and the circumstances of the union were uniformly the same. The scars showed

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